

Longridge Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council of Longridge Urban District.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of Longridge for the year 1943. Certain particulars concerning the disposition and age grouping of the population are omitted at the request of the Ministry of Health.

The area of the Urban District is unchanged.

Employment remained good and the social conditions of the district were satisfactory.

The health of the inhabitants showed no deterioration in this the fourth year of the war, and as a community it was not visited by any outbreaks of Infectious Diseases which assumed the character of an epidemic.

Measles again was the disease which occasioned the most notifications, but it and all other diseases notified were mild. The paucity of cases of Diphtheria was again a prominent feature.

Towards the end of the year there were many cases of mild Influenza, all ages being affected, but in the majority of cases the illness was of a few days duration only and associated Pneumonias were few in number. The deaths in consequence were few.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Seven cases were notified during the year (6 in 1942). 2 Pulmonary cases and 5 Non-pulmonary cases. One Glands neck (aged 1½ years), and one Tubercular Peritoneal Glands (aged 5 years) might be attributed to Tubercular milk. Both Pulmonary cases died.

There was reported in last year's Annual Report a slight but definite increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis particularly of the Non-pulmonary type. It is to be regretted that there was a further increase in the number of notifications of this same type of Tuberculosis. In more than half of these new cases the question of a milk infection must be regarded as more than probable, therefore, the observations made last year on the necessity for a strict local control over milk production and distribution demand even greater emphasis in this report. During the year sampling of the milk by bacteriological tests and by tests for Tuberculosis continued and the effect of this work was shown by the improving quality of milk which was consumed in this district.

The issue by the Government of the "White Paper on the Milk Supply" during the year stimulated discussion on this matter throughout the country. Under these proposals all the functions at present vested in the local authority for the control of milk production will be transferred to the Board of Agriculture and the Board will thus assume almost complete control of the majority of milk producing farms in this district. The local authority will no longer have any interest in the milk supplied to its inhabitants or right of entry to the farms unless Infectious Disease is notified in the farm or the drains are defective. Where, however, a pasteurisation plant exists in the district the local authority will be expected to oversee this.

Tuberculin Tested Milk and Accredited Milk from one herd are excluded from the complete control of the Board of Agriculture and are not to be pasteurised.

In order to administer the new methods of control it will, of course, be necessary to engage and employ numbers of new officials none of whom are as yet trained and all of whom will be inexperienced in this work.

It has been advanced that this drastic change is necessary because the local authorities in the past have neglected to carry out their duty to ensure a clean milk supply. This charge is unjust and in most cases unfounded. In the past the local authorities have been entrusted neither with the powers nor the staff necessary to keep complete control over milk production, and permission to provide extra staff for this purpose has frequently been refused by the Government Departments.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Whole or Part-time : Part.

Other Public Appointments held : M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C., Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.,
Assistant County Medical Officer.
(Not in private practice).

Sanitary Inspector : James Marshall, Royal Sanitary Certificates.

Whole or Part-time : Part.

Other Appointments : Surveyor and Engineer.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,285.
Population (Census, 1931)	4,158.
Estimated Population (mid 1943)	4,130.
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	1,067.
Number at end of 1943 (Rate Books)	1,228.
Rateable Value	£23,891.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£95.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

				Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	...	...	...	68	44	24	
Illegitimate		...	...	2	1	1	
				—	—	—	
Total	...	...	...	70	45	25	
				—	—	—	
							Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (mid 1943) 16.94.

STILL BIRTHS.

			Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	1	
Illegitimate		...	—	—	—	
			—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total
Total	...	...	2	1	1	(Live and Still) Births
			—	—	—	28.57.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	4	3	1
Illegitimate		...	1	1	—
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	5	4	1
			—	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 live births (Infantile Mortality Rate)	71
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 58
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... 500

An analysis of the causes of death in Infants under 1 year for the year 1942 and the average for the last ten years up to 1942 in Lancashire is given below. The figures for Longridge are given for comparison, and it will be noted that the observations made upon these deaths in the Longridge district in the Annual Report for 1942 are supported by the figures for 1943.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF INFANTILE MORTALITY IN LANCASHIRE AND LONGRIDGE.

			Lancashire.	Longridge
			10 Year average.	1942.
Measles	...	...	15	9
Whooping Cough	...	...	30	14
Diphtheria	...	...	3	2
Influenza	...	...	10	9
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	8	10
Tuberculosis (all forms)			14	11
Bronchitis	...	...	62	54
Pneumonia	...	...	221	244
Other Respiratory Diseases			5	3
Diarrhoea	...	...	96	140
Congenital Malformations and				
Premature Births	917	917
Other causes	185	180
			—	—
Total	1,566	1,593
			—	—

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Council Offices,
Market Place,
Longridge, Lancs.

27th February, 1945.

Dear Sir,

In the copies of my Annual Report for the year 1943 for the Longridge Urban District Council forwarded to you in September last, I regret that on page 4 there is a printer's error. Under the heading "Deaths from Cancer (all ages)" the number should be 11 and not nil.

Yours faithfully,

H.C. Gray.

Medical Officer of Health.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
London.

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DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

	Total	M.	F.
Total Deaths (all causes)	64	44	20
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....			15.5.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....			Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil.

Seventeen of these deaths were transferred to this district from other districts.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (1943) AND FOR LANCASHIRE (1942).

	England and Wales.	Lancashire.
Live Births per 1,000 of population	16.5	15.97
Death Rate per 1,000 of population (all causes)	12.1	12.31
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.....	49	52.8
Death Rate from Measles per 1,000 of population .....	.02	n.a.
Death Rate from Whooping Cough per 1,000 of population...	.03	n.a.
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 per 1,000 births	5.3	n.a.

n.a.—Not available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 44 notifications in the year 1943 as follows:—

Measles	28.
Scarlet Fever	7.
Diphtheria	3.
Acute Pneumonia	6.

The cases of Scarlet Fever and of Diphtheria were removed to Hospital.

One case of Diphtheria, an unimmunised child, died in Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout 1943. Its value to the community can be assessed by the paucity of the number of cases of Diphtheria in the district. In 1943 of the three cases notified, two were adults of ages 24 and 38 years and the third an unimmunised child. During the year 78 children under five and 58 children of five to fifteen years were immunised—a total of 136. In 1942, 124 children were protected so that it is apparent that there is no lack of willingness on the part of the parents to acquire protection for their children against this disease.

Of the 136 children treated, 41 were immunised by general practitioners and the rest by myself.

At the end of the year an analysis of the figures showed that 74.9 per cent. of the children under school age and 94.9 per cent. of the children of school age had been immunised. In addition 56 children, who had attained the age of 15 years during the year and who have not been included in the above percentages, were still protected.

The percentages for the County of Lancashire in these age periods for the year 1942 were: under 5 years of age 51.7 per cent.; 5—15 years of age 68.4 per cent.

The Laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary continued to render valuable aid to diagnosis. Seven swabs for Diphtheria were examined during the year. This is a reduction on that of the previous year but a salutary one indicating the absence of cases of doubt.

The arrangements for the isolation and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases were as in previous years.

GENERAL DISEASES.

The accommodation of the Hospitals in Preston—Preston Royal Infirmary, Sharoe Green Hospital and Mount Street Hospital—was available for the treatment of cases of sickness or accident in inhabitants of this district. The arrangements for the transport of patients were unchanged.

The Special Radium Clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary for the treatment of Malignant Growths continued, and the Laboratory at the Infirmary was available for diagnosis.

SERVICES SUPPLIED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MATERNITY.—Mr. Andison, the Obstetrical Specialist of the Preston Royal Infirmary, attends fortnightly at the School Clinic in Kestor Lane where expectant mothers of this district can consult him. The County Health Visitor is in regular attendance at the Clinic and the Midwives are also expected to attend. Post-natal advice and any treatment required are given at the same Clinic. Cases which require hospital treatment, by reason of abnormality or by unsuitable home conditions, are referred from this Clinic to the Maternity Hospital at Preston Royal Infirmary or at Sharoe Green Hospital.

During 1943, 48 women attended this Clinic and made 175 attendances. Half of those attending were from districts outside Longridge.

Private patients use the maternity beds at Mount Street Hospital and there is in addition one small Maternity Home registered in the district.

A domiciliary maternity nursing service is provided by Longridge and District Nursing Association.

CHILD WELFARE.—A Centre meets weekly at the Clinic.

A Doctor and the County Health Visitor are in attendance and are available for consultation and advice.

During the year 267 children attended and made 1,361 attendances.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC provides inspection, advice, and treatment for all children up to the school leaving age.

MINOR AILMENTS are treated on two mornings per week. During 1943, 384 children made 1,873 attendances. This is a considerable increase on the figures for 1942.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT CLINIC meets fortnightly for the treatment of errors of refraction and of squint. 174 children made 210 attendances in 1943.

A **DENTAL CLINIC** is held twice per week with a Dental Surgeon and Dental Attendant in attendance. In 1943, 615 children made 1,002 attendances. In addition 8 mothers (Expectant or Post-natal) attended for treatment.

Evacuees from other areas billeted in this area attended the Clinic as follows:—

Minor Ailments	17.	Attendances	151.
Ophthalmic	6.	Attendances	6.
Dental	17.	Attendances	23.

The days and times of meetings at the Clinic are as follows:—

Minor Ailments	Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Dental Clinic	Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Ophthalmic	Alternate Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Ante-Natal	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Child Welfare Centre	Tuesday Afternoon, 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

SPECIAL DEFECTS.—Children suffering from Orthopaedic defects attend at the Leyland Orthopaedic Clinic monthly.

Beds are available for such cases at the County Hospital at Biddulph or in County beds in the Hospitals at Heswall or Windermere.

Blind Children or Partially Blind Children are sent to Fulwood Blind School.

Deaf and Dumb Children to the Royal Cross School, Preston.

Mental Defectives are referred to the Lancashire Asylum Board.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The treatment of patients suffering from the various forms of this disease is the responsibility of the Tuberculosis Staff of the Lancashire County Council. Dispensary, Sanatorial, or Hospital treatment is available, and X-ray for diagnosis or for treatment is also extensively used. The examination of sputum is carried out at the Dispensaries. The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Walton's Parade, Preston, is the one at which patients from Longridge attend.

The notifications of this disease during 1943 were 7 in number—2 Pulmonary and 5 cases of Glandular Tuberculosis. Both Respiratory cases died, and all of the Glandular cases (three of them young children) required operation. One Pulmonary case removed to another district, and two Non-pulmonary cases have recovered and have been removed from the Register.

The number on the Register at the end of 1943 was 22 (20 in 1942).

THE CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Diseases throughout 1943 did not raise any problems in control. With the exception of Measles none of the diseases ever appeared in the form of anything more extensive than sporadic cases, and even Measles was only prevalent during March and April. Practically all the cases of each type of disease were mild and there were no sequelae. Of the notified cases, one of Pneumonia and one of Diphtheria died. There were four other deaths from Pneumonia in persons who were not notified in this district, and two deaths occurred from Influenza.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

THE WATER SUPPLY obtained from Preston Corporation was sufficient in amount and bacteriologically pure. The average daily consumption per head of population was about 36 gallons. There was no extensions of the mains during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING were carried out by the Council's employees using a motor vehicle.

SEWERAGE.—The water carriage system is mainly in use throughout the district but waste water closets are still used. The sewerage plant though somewhat overloaded did not cause any nuisance.

The possibility of this Authority becoming a constituent member of a joint scheme for the disposal of sewerage from this and other authorities in the immediate neighbourhood is under consideration.

Many earth closets and privies, which are still in use in parts of the district, were emptied at regular intervals.

There were no conversions to the water carriage system throughout the year.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools were regularly inspected. The sanitary arrangements were satisfactory. There were no school closures for Infectious Disease.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The number of dairy farms in the district was 32 with upwards of 540 cows. Three dairymen, other than cowkeepers, were registered. The number of inspections made of these milk production farms was 130 and further information about these inspections is given in Mr. Marshall's report.

During the year 45 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological tests and to tests for Tuberculosis. Of these samples 19 were satisfactory and 26 were unsatisfactory, results which were not creditable to the producers and must still be of concern to the authority.

Three of these samples showed the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus. One of the samples taken from a school was a mixed milk from two farms. The affected cows were apparently not discovered. In the case of the other two samples, two Tuberculous cows, one advanced in the disease and the other less advanced, were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. This is again a very unsatisfactory position. That milk containing the Tubercle Bacillus should be delivered to a school at all, and that Tubercle having been discovered, the affected cows should not be found is a position which must give rise to much disquiet. Moreover, in one of the other samples the cow was found to be in an advanced stage of Tuberculosis and this must add to the anxiety of those who take a responsible view of the quality of milk being supplied to the public.

One licence to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one licence to produce Accredited Milk were granted to producers in this district during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The details of the quantities of food condemned and any other action necessary, will be found in Mr. Marshall's Report appended.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943.

No new houses were built. Repairs to defects were difficult and lengthy owing to labour shortages. The questions of the replacement of defective houses and the provision of further houses were under consideration by the Council during the year.

LEGISLATION IN 1943 — NEW OR SUGGESTED.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations ((1936-1943).

The White Paper on the Control of Milk Supplies.

Food and Drugs Act 1938. Amendments.

REPORTS APPENDED.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. G. WRAY.

Longridge,
August, 1944.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1943.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

On inspection these have been found kept clean and in good sanitary condition, the sanitary condition of one of the factories is to be improved after the war.

RETAIL BAKEHOUSES.

These when visited have been found to be kept in a clean condition and the walls limewashed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The Shippens on the whole have been kept in fair condition, lime-washed and clean. The milk stores have been clean and wholesome and the water supply good.

The cattle kept have been of a sound and healthy class; 45 milk samples were taken during the year.

INFECTIOUS CASES.

The cases reported during the year numbered 11 as compared with 10 last year:—

Scarlet Fever	7
Diphtheria	4
	—
	11
	—

All the above cases were removed to Hospital and 10 houses disinfected, one case was removed from outside the district.

The schools and infected houses have been well supplied with disinfectants and quite a number of householders keep regularly purchasing this.

FOOD.

165 lbs. of tinned food has been condemned as unfit for human consumption; also there has been brought into the district for animal feeding only 1 ton 19 cwt. of Pea Pickings and 2,650 lbs. of damaged meat.

NUISANCES.

Where these have arisen they have been abated by the owners without notices having to be served.

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The removal of house refuse from ashbins, ashtins, and a number of common privies has received good attention, a regular fortnightly collection being taken, along with Salvage. This shorter service seems to be giving householders more satisfaction.

The refuse collected is still being tipped on hollow land on the outskirts of the district and soiled over. The present tip will only serve for about another 12 months, when other sites will have to be found. The difficulty here is to find suitable tipping places in close proximity to the village.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS.

The sewers and manholes in the village have been regularly inspected, flushed and cleaned, and the surface road gullies and streets have been kept clean.

At the Sewerage Works the land areas have been improved until such time as extra filter and humus tanks can be installed.

JAMES MARSHALL,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

